



**Broadcast Educational Media Commission Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
March 23, 2021**

- I. **Call to Order:** At 1:34 p.m., Dr. Osborn opened the meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission Finance Committee.

- A. **Roll Call:** At 1:34 p.m., roll call was conducted by Mrs. Gage.

**Members Present:**

Committee Chairman Dr. Jan Osborn  
Commissioner Matt Dole  
Designee Charles See

**Also Present:**

Chairman Robert Smith;  
Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips;  
Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Craig Stevenson;  
Chief Financial Officer Alina Gage;  
interested citizens:  
Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations;  
Mark Jividen, Chairman of the Ohio Radio Reading Services Alliance;  
David Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc;  
Trina Cutter, President and CEO of Western Reserve Public Media;  
Marlon Kiser, WGTE President and CEO;  
and Mike Thompson, chairman of the Ohio Public Radio Alliance.

- B. **Commission Action Items**

**Resolution 21-22: Approval of September 3, 2020 Minutes:** 1:35 p.m. –Mr. Dole moved for approval of minutes. Mr. See seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

- II. **Financial Statement**

- A. Mrs. Gage provided a review of the March 2021 financial report. BEMC is on-track for Fiscal Year 2021 spending.

### III. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Public TV & Radio \$2,100,000 Capital Award

#### A. Analysis of Differences

1. The original capital request sent to Office of Budget and Management (OBM) was \$2,318,536. \$2,100,000 was awarded in SB 310. Ex. Dir. Phillips reviewed the request and reminded the group of the detail provided in the read-ahead documents. The goal is to provide guiding principles on capital requests going forward.
2. Mr. Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations (OETS), shared there is confusion about the authority of the commission compared to past practices. The idea of guiding principles is a good start to alleviate the confusion. The alliance is prepared to do a “deeper dive” into founding documents to see if there is guidance. Commission Chairman Smith said it is important to understand authority but also important to exercise influence. The guiding principles and transparency are crucial. Mr. Martin explained the “deep dive” is to understand the founding documents and agreed internal reviews are typically more stringent in reviews than the commission. He looks forward to the evaluation of the Joint Master Control (JMC) and believes it will be a great entrée into the two sides coming together.
3. Mr. Dole stated he was surprised to learn there was an additional request outside of the document submitted to OBM by the commission and is glad to establish roles and communication protocols. Mr. Martin, Chairman Smith, and Chairman Osborn agreed.
4. Ex. Dir. Phillips opined the emergency alert project attributed to Ohio Governmental Telecommunications (OGT) really belongs with tv/radio, even if it does not have matching funds available. Mr. Carwile replied the project is statewide and not assigned to a certain station. Ex. Dir. Phillips responded that OBM was concerned with the emergency communications label, which is why it was not included in the capital bill. He also asked to which group would the funds be released for this project. Mr. Carwile answered those conversations have not occurred yet, but the intent was it to follow the same path as OGT funds. Ex. Dir. Phillips asked about the TV group’s OETS Alliance receiving the funds since this is a TV/Radio project and not specific at all to The Ohio Channel.
5. A spreadsheet was shared showing the differences between the original requests made in the Fall of 2019 and the changes provided by the alliance in January 2021.
6. Mr. Dole asked if the reduction was done by OBM or in the revised request by the alliance. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated BEMC was not aware of the changes until the alliance alerted BEMC with the new document. Mr. Martin stated the changes happened immediately after the commission meeting. The objections were not to the requests, but to the prioritization. The list was then revised based on what they thought would get support from OBM. and subsequently asked the stations to

provide new estimates of their requests. Mr. Carwile offered the alliance was surprised by the \$2.1M capital amount. Discussion occurred to clarify the emergency alert project and funding.

**Resolution 21-23 Authorize Ex. Dir. to Sign Capital Documents:** 2:24 p.m. – Mr. Dole made a motion to recommend to the commission to authorize Ex. Dir. Phillips to sign and complete necessary approvals to release capital funds. Mr. See seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

7. Mr. Dole clarified if the commission votes on a motion, that should be the official recommendation of the commission. If the alliance is going to take the lead, it may be prudent the commission does not vote on a motion and the item is tasked to alliance leaders.
8. Chairman Osborn recommended to Chairman Smith that long term goals should be something the commission considers.

#### IV. **Subsidy Allocation Review**

##### A. **Approach to Formula**

1. The current split for subsidy funding is 10% to Ohio Radio Reading Service (ORRS), 74.75% to Ohio Public Television (TV), and 24.25% to Ohio Public Radio (Radio). Chairman Osborn asked the committee members what updates needed to occur. Mr. Dole replied he is inclined to leave the current formula in place. Chairman Smith asked if the alliance members feel they can discuss new allocation formulas; do they want the ability to present a recommendation to the commission? Mr. Martin answered the alliance can review the formula and Chairman Smith stated he would prefer the alliance to present the formula recommendation to the commission. Ex. Dir. Phillips suggested the first step is to confirm the division of funds and possibly alter the TV and Radio percentages (for the 90% portion) to match Corporation of Public Broadcasting figures (75% to TV, 25% to Radio). Mr. Martin wants to review historical documents of the subsidy split and has no issues following CPB splits.

**Resolution 21-24: Motion for Subsidy Allocation Percentages:** 2:40 p.m. –Mr. Dole moved to recommend to the commission to continue the distribution of the Content Development Subsidy Funds as 10% to Radio Reading Services with 90% to Public TV & Public Radio with TV receiving 75% and Radio receiving 25%. Mr. See seconded. The adjournment motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 21-25: Motion for Alliance Subsidy Allocation Review:** 2:42 p.m. – Mr. Dole moved to request each of the three alliances review the allocation of subsidy funds and report to the BEMC by June 30, 2021. Mr. See seconded. The adjournment motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

2. Mr. Jividen added ORRS funding is so small that any disruption to the funds would be difficult to absorb. Outreach is beginning in unserved areas in Bowling Green, Toledo, Cambridge, and Athens. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated ORRS received an additional \$50,000 per year in the FY 20-21 budget for these expansion efforts.

V. **Adjournment**

**Resolution 21-26: Motion for Adjournment:** 2:48 p.m. –Mr. See moved to adjourn. Mr. Dole seconded. The adjournment motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

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Dr. Jan Osborn, Finance Committee Chairman  
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

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Date